

# ICRISAT - Niger

## Stakeholder Consultation Meeting



**ICRISAT-Training and Visitor Centre, Niamey**

**19 August 2015**

This report documents the workshop on Stakeholder Consultation Meeting as key step in the Country Strategy development process, convened by ICRISAT Sahelian Centre Management, August 19, 2015, ICRISAT Training and Visitor Centre, Niger.

Content of the report is a compilation of participants' contributions.

## Background

To fulfill its mission of reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation in the dryland tropics through partnership-based international agricultural research-for-development that embodies *Science with a Human Face*, ICRISAT management has decided to have a clear 5 year (2016-2020) research strategy for each of its focus country.

## Objectives of the meeting

As part of the Niger country strategy development process a stakeholder consultation meeting was held on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 to ensure that this strategy is well aligned with the priorities of the Government of Niger.

## Participation and agenda

The agenda of the meeting included presentation from stakeholders to learn more on each contributing partner current and planned intervention in Niger. Among partners were present the Haut commissariat 3N (entity in charge of coordination of Niger Rural development strategy), INRAN (Niger National Agricultural Research Institute), the University of Niamey; the two biggest farmers' organization (MOORIBEN and FUMA Gaskya); the National farmers Umbrella (Plateforme paysanne and RECA). The key participants donors included the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, the USAID and the European Union.

Points of discussion	Summary/recommendations
<b>1. The 3N Initiative: Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens</b>	<p>Dr Barkiré Bourahima, first presented the challenges faced by the agricultural production in Niger, which are biophysical, institutional and social.</p> <p>He explained the origin of the 3N Initiative. They are based on four pillars targeting the root causes of food insecurity. The objective of the 3N Initiative which is to “strengthen the national capacity for food production, a steady supply chain, and resilience in the face of food crises and natural disasters.” To achieve this objective, activities focus on five major areas: i) increasing and diversifying agricultural, forest, livestock, and fish production; ii) supplying rural and urban markets on a regular basis with agricultural, forest, livestock, and fish products; iii) improving the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate change, food crises, and natural disasters; iv) improving the nutritional status of Nigeriens; and v) promoting reforms in the food security and agricultural development sector. Through the 3N, innovative techniques and technologies adapted to the ecological and socioeconomic reality of Niger are being expanded primarily by substantial, direct support to farms in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing use of inputs, equipment, and other technological innovations on family farms producing crops or livestock;</li> <li>• Promoting modern units for farming, agro-forestry, and intensive stockbreeding;</li> <li>• Improving the availability and accessibility of inputs and equipment for crops, and stockbreeding and veterinary purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p> <p>After his presentation different questions were put forward for clarification. Emphasis was put on how ICRISAT should align with this country wide initiative.</p>
<b>2. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b>	<p>Ms Moctar Ramatou HASSAN first described the history of IFAD investment in Niger. Since 1980, IFAD has financed 12 operations in Niger, five of which are ongoing. IFAD's interventions in the country have worked to strengthen the capacities and coping mechanisms of small-scale rural producers, with an emphasis on the most marginalized socio-economic groups. The country strategic opportunities programme for 2013 through 2018 will invest 207 million USD targeting approximately 1.4 million people. The country programme's main strategic objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainably increase production by small producers in the agriculture, forestry</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- and pastoralist sectors</li> <li>- Improve smallholders' post-production and marketing activities</li> <li>- Strengthen the social capital of poor rural people, making local institutions and commercial activities more sustainable.</li> </ul> <p>Some ongoing project in which collaboration is needed for implementation are the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Family Farming Development Programme in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions:</b></li> <li>- <b>Ruwanmu Small-Scale Irrigation Project.</b></li> <li>- <b>Food Security and Development Support Project in the Maradi Region</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p> <p>IFAD is looking forward to collaborate with ICRISAT for dissemination of technologies for cereals, groundnut and crop diversification.</p>
<p><b>3. The European Union</b></p>	<p>Mrs Beatrice Bussi, Head of Department of food security and resilience, gave an overview of EU cooperation in terms of food security. The European Union (EU) is helping Niger in its efforts toward food security, with a particular focus on the need to improve the efficiency of aid by concentrating on vulnerable people.</p> <p>Some of the ongoing project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ADAP (institutional support to the 3N) development of investment financing mechanisms, strengthening sector governance capacities (management and response coordination, programming, planning and monitoring and evaluation of interventions, information and communication systems , etc.).</li> <li>- Project to support the development of the rural sector (PADSR): € 15 million (€ 10 million micro-productive projects and microfinance € 5). The project is designed to provide a sustainable response to the structural causes of food insecurity faced by rural communes in the northern parts of Dosso and Zinder regions. In total thirty one (31) municipalities are covered with twelve (12) in Dosso and nineteen (19) in Zinder.</li> <li>- IAOMD: € 31 million (of which € 15 million access to water / sanitation and € 16m prevention of malnutrition in the Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder)</li> <li>- Securing pastoral tenure systems in Niger by strengthening land governance, 3M €</li> <li>- As future prospect the EU has launched a call on food security on which ICRISAT showed some interest with a concept note.</li> </ul>

<b>4. FAO</b>	<p>Mr Miko Illya indicated that FAO intervention in terms of food security is focused on three main priorities</p> <p>Priority 1: Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations;</p> <p>Priority 2: Increase diversification and development of agro-forestry-pastoral and fish production;</p> <p>Priority 3: Strengthening the capacity of public and private institutions in the rural sector.</p> <p>Currently the main activities on the ground are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support for rainfed agriculture;</li> <li>○ Facilities and development of vegetable irrigated sites;</li> <li>○ Support for the rehabilitation of the sector and the seed sub-sector;</li> <li>○ Improving access to financing (working capital, resilience fund soon);</li> <li>○ Warrantage stores and security stocks of inputs;</li> <li>○ Prevention of malnutrition to the means of diversification of crops with high nutritional value and processing of food habits;</li> <li>○ Support for the empowerment of rural women.</li> </ul> <p>In the future FAO plan to work also on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strengthening the institutional framework and management of agricultural research in Niger;</li> <li>○ Capitalization and development of best practice in all agricultural areas;</li> <li>○ Strengthening the seed system, with a particular emphasis on the development of varieties in relation to the concerns of the population and registration to catalogs to power the seed system</li> </ul>
<b>5. USAID</b>	<p>Mr Ahmadou Ndiaye, Director of USAID Food Security Department focused his presentation on the Food Assistance Programs in Niger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) targets food insecure individuals through cash-based and in-kind emergency projects. FFP partners with the UN World Food Program (WFP) country-wide, UNICEF country-wide, Mercy Corps in the Tillaberi region, Samaritan's Purse and other nongovernmental organizations in the Diffa region, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the Tahoua and Tillaberi regions.</li> <li>○ FFP supports three integrated development food assistance programs with Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and improve community resilience among rural households in the Maradi and Zinder regions. The programs target over 500,000 individuals and aim to promote positive behavior change in nutrition, health, hygiene, sanitation, and agriculture, as well as diversify livelihoods through livestock, savings and lending, and literacy activities.</li> </ul>
<b>6. World Bank</b>	<p>Mr Ba Amadou indicated that the WB intervention in Niger is focused on two areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promoting Resilient Growth</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reducing vulnerabilities</li> </ul> <p>Some of the ongoing projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project on Exports and Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Markets - PRODEX</li> <li>○ Project on Community action planning</li> <li>○ Agricultural Productivity Program in West Africa (WAPP / Niger)</li> <li>○ Regional Support Project on pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS)</li> <li>○ Project to support the sensitive agriculture to climate risks</li> </ul> <p>Currently the WB is planning on over 100 million USD investment on Climate Smart Agriculture and ICRISAT Niger is involved in the proposal development</p>
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**List of Participants**  
**ICRISAT Stakeholder consultation meeting**

August 19th, 2015, Niamey, Niger

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